

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4 and 12-35 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 36 and 37 have been cancelled.

Applicants' attorney thanks Examiner Eugene Yun for the personal interview conducted in connection with the present application on February 4, 2004. As a result of the interview, applicants' attorney and Examiner Yun agreed on certain claim revisions which would overcome the prior art rejections contained in the final Office Action (see the Interview Summary dated February 4, 2004). By the foregoing amendments, these claim revisions have been effected in each of the independent claims currently pending in the present application (i.e., Claims 12, 21, 24 and 30). In the foregoing circumstances, it is believed that all of these outstanding prior art rejections have been overcome and that amended independent Claims 12, 21, 24 and 30 are therefore in condition for allowance.

With respect to the remaining pending claims (i.e., Claims 3, 4, 13-20, 22, 23, 25-29 and 31-35), editorial revisions have been implemented in a number of these claims. Because each of these claims depends from one of amended independent Claims 12, 21, 24 and 30, they are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 36 and 37 are directed to an independent and distinct invention (i.e., a non-elected invention). While these claims have been cancelled, applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected invention.

Appln. No. 09/595,114
Amdt. dated March 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed September 10, 2003


For the sake of good order, applicants' attorney notes that an Associate Power of Attorney authorizing the undersigned attorney to prosecute this application is being submitted herewith. A copy of this Associate Power of Attorney was provided to the Examiner during the February 4th interview.

Because the Office Action has been made final, this Amendment is being accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). In view of the foregoing amendments and the accompanying RCE, reexamination and allowance of Claims 3, 4 and 12-35 are respectfully requested. If, however, such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below so that any outstanding issue can be resolved without the issuance of a further Office Action.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submittal of this Amendment. If, however, any such fees, including extension and RCE fees, are due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully Submitted,

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